

REMARKS

Favorable reconsideration of this application as presently amended and in light of the following discussion is respectfully requested.

Claims 1-92 are pending in the present application. Claims 1-2, 4-11, 40-41 and 43-47 have been amended and Claims 91 and 92 have been added by the present amendment.

This application is a continued prosecution application of serial no. 09/035,995, filed March 6, 1998.

Applicants thank the Examiner for the courtesy of an interview extended to Applicants' representative on September 7, 2000. During the interview, the differences between the present invention and the applied art were discussed. No agreement was reached pending the Examiner's further review when a response is filed.

During the interview, the features illustrated in Figures 1 and 5 were primarily discussed. Applicants note the features illustrated in the sequence chart of Figure 5 discussed during the interview are recited in new dependent Claims 91 and 92, which respectively depend on Claims 1 and 40.

In addition, Claim 1 has been amended to more clearly recite the communication channels/paths noted within the network (as discussed during the interview). In particular, Claim 1 has been amended to recite that the establishing unit establishes a first communication channel in a second physical network for transmitting information data from the transmitting node, and the reserving unit reserves a second communication channel in the first physical network for transferring the information data transmitted through the first communication channel to another data transfer control device connected to the first physical network and/or the receiving node. Further, the commanding unit commands the transmitting

node to transmit the information data through the first communications channel, by using a protocol of the second physical network.

In addition, Applicants note Claim 1 corresponds to an A/V control terminal (e.g., A/V control terminal 2 in Figure 1, AV control terminal 1103 in Figure 9, and AV control terminal 1503 in Figure 3) which has a function for setting up a data transfer between the transmitting node and the receiving node that are connected to different networks (see Figures 1, 9 and 13, for example). Applicants submit Keshav does not teach or suggest any AV control terminal with such a function, and thus believe Claim 1 patentably defines over Keshav. Claim 40 is similar to Claim 1, but is a method claim.

Accordingly, Applicants respectfully request the next outstanding Office Action clarify where in Keshav any AV control terminal of this kind is disclosed. In addition, dependent Claims 5 and 6 recite an additional function of converting a data format or encoding/decoding data at the AV control terminal while transferring data between the transmitting node and the receiving node that are connected to different networks, as is shown in Figures 9 and 13. Applicants submit Keshav also completely fails to disclose any AV control terminal with such an additional function.

Further, as discussed during the interview, only Claims 1 and 40 (and the corresponding dependent claims) have been amended to more clearly recite the communication channels within the networks. If the Examiner believes these changes are sufficient to distinguish over the applied art, the other claims will be amended in a similar fashion in the next response.

Consequently, in light of the above discussion and in view of the present amendment, an action on the merits is earnestly solicited.

Respectfully submitted,

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